employ uniformed personnel in the U.R.Cs to the extent possible. The aforesaid letter was withdrawn through another letter, issued on 10-12-91, cancelling the earlier letter.

The services of the employees of U.R.Cs at Kharga, Ambala, Pune Sub Area etc. were not terminated pursuant to any instructions of the Government, but either because their service conditions did not permit their retention or because the employees had violated the rules and regulations of the U.R.C. concerned.

Government is aware of the news item appearing on 30-9-1992 in 'Rashtriya Sahara' under the caption 'Raksha Mantrayala Ki Canteen men Civilian Karmachariyon Ki Sthiti Bahut Dayniya Hai'. Inquiries have revealed that it is incorrect to conclude that a bonded labour system prevails in the U.R.Cs or that the employees are subjected to any suffering, requiring mitigation through Government intervention.

Sale of Arms and Ammunitions by ' Foreign Companies

4024. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of some foreign companies dealing in arms and ammunitions;

(b) if so, what are the names of such companies;

(c) whether a company named M|s D'silva Locomotive Europe (India) is also engaged[1] in supplying guns and small'arms to some private organisations without the consent of the Government; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken or is being taken against the said company?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) There are a large number of foreign companies dealing with the production and supply of arms and ammunition. Without reference to the specific nature of arms and ammunition it is not possible to collect country-wise information of the names of all companies which deal with the supply of such stores. This Ministry does not maintain such information.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Defence has no dealings with this Company.

Abandoning of Light Combat Aircraft

4075. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of funds spent so far on the Light Combat Aircraft project and the stage at which it stands at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that Gov-ment now propose to abandon the project as it is facing problems regarding procurement|development of engine, frame, electronic components and other avionic systems required for its completion; and!

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) A sum of Rs. 481 crores has been spent upto Nov 92 on the Light Com bat Aircraft (LCA) project. After completion of Project Definition Phase (PDP), the Full Scale Engineering Development (FSED) commenced in April 90 and would be carried out in two phases. Critical technologies for LCA are planned to be demonstrated in phase I of FSED. Phase II envisages intergration of various other technologies being deve-